



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, DC 20310

HQDA Ltr 600-04-4

AHRC-PDO-PA

21 September 2004

Expires 21 September 2006

**SUBJECT: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM)—Termination Date for Award of the AFEM for Operations in Southwest Asia**

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. **Purpose.** This letter prescribes policy and administrative instructions concerning individual military awards.

2. **Applicability.** This policy applies to the Active Army, the U.S. Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the U.S. Army Reserve.

3. **Proponent and exception authority.** The proponent of this HQDA letter is the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1. The proponent has the authority to approve exceptions or waivers to this HQDA letter that are consistent with controlling law and regulation. This will not be delegated. Activities may request a waiver to this letter by providing justification that includes a full analysis of the expected benefits and must include formal review by the activity's senior legal officer. All waiver requests will be endorsed by the commander or senior leader of the requesting activity and forwarded through their higher headquarters to the policy proponent. Refer to AR 25-30 for specific guidance.

4. **References.**

a. Required references.

(1) AR 600-8-22, Military Awards.

(2) MILPER Message NR. 96-093, DTG 051526Z Mar 96, Subj: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) for Operation Southern Watch.

(3) MILPER Message NR. 99-228, DTG 011250Z Sep 99, Subj: Expansion of the area of eligibility for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Operation Northern Watch and award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Exercises Intrinsic Action and Iris Gold in Southwest Asia.

(4) MILPER Message NR. 00-102, DTG 140947Z Feb 00, Subj: Award of the Armed

Forces Expeditionary Medal for Operation Desert Spring in the expanded area of eligibility of Southwest Asia Iraq Operations.

(5) MILPER Message NR. 98-161, DTG 291530Z Jul 98, Subj: Award of the AFEM for Operations in Southwest Asia.

(6) HQ, HRC USA//AHRC-PDO-PA// Message, DTG 17 Mar 04, Subj: Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal—Implementing Instructions.

b. Related references: There are no related references

## **5. Explanation of abbreviations and terms.**

- a. AFEM—Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.
- b. DCS, G-1—Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1.
- c. GWOTEM—Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.
- d. MIO—Maritime Intercept Operation.
- e. MPD/PSC—Military Personnel Divisions/Personnel Service Companies.
- f. NPRC—National Personnel Records Center.
- g. ODS—Operation Desert Spring.
- h. ONW—Operation Northern Watch.
- i. OSW—Operation Southern Watch.
- j. SWA—Southwest Asia.
- k. USAHRC—U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

## **6. Responsibilities.**

a. The DCS, G-1 will exercise Department of the Army responsibility on matters concerning military awards and will serve as the senior Army official on matters concerning military awards.

b. The Commanding General, U.S. Army Human Resources Command (CG, USAHRC) will conduct and supervise all military awards functions prescribed in this letter. The CG, USAHRC will act on behalf of DCS, G-1 when so delegated and directed.

c. The Commandant, Adjutant General School will ensure that the branch implements this letter.

## **7. Overview.**

a. The Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, J-1 advised that 18 March 2003 is the termination date for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) for the following Operations in Southwest Asia (SWA):

- (1) Operation Southern Watch (OSW)—1 Dec 95 to 18 Mar 03.
- (2) Maritime Intercept Operation (MIO)—1 Dec 95 to 18 Mar 03.
- (3) Operation Northern Watch (ONW)—1 Jan 97 to 18 Mar 03.
- (4) Operation Desert Spring (ODS)—31 Dec 98 to 18 Mar 03.

b. In conjunction with the termination date for the AFEM, Ref F announced award of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM), effective 11 Sep 01 to a date to be determined.

**8. Policy.** The following policy applies to soldiers who were awarded the AFEM for one of the SWA operations listed above and then became eligible for the GWOTEM on 11 Sep 01. Soldiers who deployed in support of SWA between 11 Sep 01 to 18 Mar 03 can elect

**AHRC-PDO-PA**

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to receive either the AFEM or GWOTEM, but they may not be awarded both for the same period.

**9. Procedures.**

a. This message is the authority for Military Personnel Divisions/Personnel Service Companies (MPD/PSC) to act on requests from individual soldiers. Permanent orders are not required for the AFEM or the GWOTEM.

b. Members of the Army Reserve and National Guard should contact their current records manager to validate the wear of the award and confirm their records reflect the award.

c. Requests for award of the AFEM or GWOTEM to veterans, retirees, or their next of kin will be made in the following manner:

(1) Soldiers who retired or were discharged in the past 90 to 120 days will submit their requests for award of the AFEM or GWOTEM to Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0471. Requests should include a copy of the DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) and any supporting documents to substantiate service. The medals will be added to the DD Form 214 by issuance of a DD Form 215.

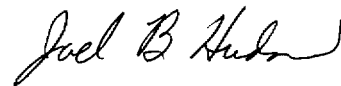
(2) Soldiers who retired or were discharged more than 120 days ago will submit their requests to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), [http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st\\_louis/military\\_personnel\\_records/awards\\_and\\_decorations.html](http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis/military_personnel_records/awards_and_decorations.html), in St. Louis, MO. NPRC's address is National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Requests should include a copy of the DD Form 214 and any supporting documentation to substantiate service. NPRC will add the authorized medal to the DD Form 214 by issuing a DD Form 215.

d. Only MACOMs and principal HQDA agencies are authorized to contact the Military Awards Branch directly.

By order of the Secretary of the Army:

PETER J. SCHOOMAKER  
*General, United States Army*  
*Chief of Staff*

Official:



JOEL B. HUDSON  
*Administrative Assistant to the*  
*Secretary of the Army*

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